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WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17, 1953

I was back and forth on the telephone a good deal of the morning with Monnet in Luxembourg and Moore in Washington regarding the impending release by the White House today of the President's letter to the Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees and their responses on the subject of financing through loans the Coal and Steel Community. [redacted] The President did not handle it personally at his press conference but it was done later by Hagerty, his press secretary, at a special meeting in the afternoon.

Von Walther, from the German diplomatic mission here, came to see me this morning. He told me it must be kept entirely secret but [redacted] Hallstein wanted to meet me somewhere on Sunday and suggested [redacted] we get together at a hunting lodge near Trier, which would involve my going there from Luxembourg. I told him I would agree to whatever was convenient to Hallstein. The reason for such an out-of-the-way place of meeting was that since a considerable amount of publicity and speculation [redacted] followed our talks together in Paris just before I went to the United States, the Germans were anxious that this forthcoming conference be kept entirely private.

André de Staercke and I had lunch together at the Restaurant Calvet on the Boulevard St. Germain. He told me [redacted] Van Zeeland wished me to know that he could not pass the EDC through the lower Chamber in Belgium before the summer recess. De Staercke and I discussed this matter and thought [redacted] a last effort should be made. I sent the following telegram to the Department and later arranged to go to Brussels Saturday of this week and meet Van Zeeland at 11:00 o'clock.

"SENT: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. 6504.

"EYES ONLY SECRETARY, MERCHANT AND MOORE.

"1. De Staercke this morning delivered official message to me from Van Zeeland stating Van Zeeland had arrived at definite conclusion that passage of

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EDC ratification by one chamber impossible before summer recess. Van Zeeland said he had done his best to push matter through but had always stipulated he did not want bare majority even if that could be obtained but desired favorable vote representing national approval. This was now impossible because attitude Liberal and particularly Socialist Parties.

"2. As background to above, I had frank and confidential talk yesterday in Strasbourg with Spaak. He confirmed estimate attributed to him that neither chamber of Belgian Parliament would vote on EDC ratification until after summer recess. I told him if what he said were translated into definite decision it would be bitter disappointment to US as well as to Belgium's other partners. I referred to obstacles so far interposed by Socialist Party members and asked if they would not reconsider their position. I told Spaak that his own present attitude of agreeing to delay EDC ratification, which presumably was based on Belgian domestic political considerations, would be much criticized in US where his reputation and speeches in favor of making Europe quickly had caused us to assume his unqualified support of early ratification.

"Spaak answered that he would think over our conversation and discuss it with his colleagues, and they might be able to postpone final determination Socialist position for a week. He suggested that in interval Secretary might wish to call in Silvercruys and stress again importance US attaches to ratification before recess, in language which Van Zeeland could repeat to special committees dealing with this subject and even to parliament.

"3. Obviously the situation is most critical. De Staercke, who has been mainstay throughout in trying to force Belgian ratification, favors Spaak's suggestion of reiteration to Van Zeeland via Silvercruys of US Government policy this regard. I dislike suggesting President Eisenhower be burdened with matters

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this kind. Undoubtedly however if it seems practicable the seriousness with which we view this matter would be accented if President and Secretary would call in Silvercruys. I should suggest he be told how greatly they had admired Van Zeeland's courage in forcing this issue in parliament and how deeply they deplored message from Van Zeeland to Bruce about abandoning early passage EDC by one Chamber; in view profound influence ratification by Belgium would have toward achievement free world foreign policy objectives, President and Secretary could state their hope that Van Zeeland will still find it possible to reconcile conflicting domestic differences in Belgium in order to achieve this great act of statesmanship. As additional reason for talking to Silvercruys President and Secretary might stress importance US interest in European integration reasserted in letters President to Chairmen Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees and their replies released today, and express hope Europeans would press ahead with work on Political Community Treaty.

"Telegrams from Amembassy Brussels have pointed out domestic considerations affecting situation. Do not think it advisable President and Secretary to engage in any discussion merits or demerits Belgian party politics.

"4. If you find it possible to convey such a message to Van Zeeland, I will at De Staercke's suggestion follow it up with Van Zeeland and also with Liberals and with Buset and other Socialist leaders.

"Please send instructions soonest possible. BRUCE."

From the meeting with Van Zeeland, I will go to lunch at Baroness Lambert's, where she will invite some of the leaders of the Liberal Party.

I have also sent a message to Buset, the head of the Belgian Socialists, who is in Strasbourg, asking if I can come to see him in Brussels next week. The internal domestic situation in Belgium is [redacted] confused and everyone is jockeying for position.

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The Rosenberg case continues to agitate many people on the Continent. Spaak sent me a message today asking whether something could not be done to persuade President Eisenhower to commute the death sentence. Meanwhile, thousands of petitions are pouring into our various embassies, and especially the one in Paris, on behalf of the Rosenbergs.

Very strong anti-Communist riots broke out in Berlin yesterday and are continuing today. Unconfirmed reports have it that the Russians have brought in their tanks and machine-gun units and that they have fired on the demonstrators, killing and wounding a considerable number of them.

André Marie, after a long period of prospecting, has decided to seek investiture tomorrow as Prime Minister. I know him well and like him personally but doubt [redacted] he can ride for long the French political storm. His accession to the office of Prime Minister would simply postpone the inevitable decision to attack the fundamental ills of French politics, which can only be done after a change in the electoral law and a constitutional reform.

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